



2021 ANNUAL
REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION



SENATOR
SHELLEY B. MAYER
CHAIR

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SHELLEY B. MAYER
SENATOR, 37TH DISTRICT
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER FOR
SENATE/ASSEMBLY RELATIONS

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Education
Committees
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Commissions
Housing, Construction and Community
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Women's Issues

☐ Albany Office:
Room 509
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247
(518) 455-2031 Office
(518) 426-6860 Fax

☐ District Office:
222 Grace Church St., Suite 300
Port Chester, NY 10573
(914) 934-5250 Office
(914) 934-5256 Fax
smayer@nysenate.gov

December 14, 2021

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Education for the 2021 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction and I thank you for your leadership and commitment in achieving a historic school aid budget this year. Parents, students and school districts can now count on receiving full Foundation Aid after more than a decade of delays and thousands of young children will be able to start school earlier in expanded full day PreK programs.

During the 2021 session, the Education Committee met seven times during the legislative session and reported fifty-one bills out of committee. Additionally, the committee invited guest speakers including State Education Department Commissioner Betty Rosa and Board of Regents Chancellor Lester Young to discuss relevant issues before them. The committee also held three hearings this past year including one on the Executive's Education Budget and two on the required planning and use of Foundation Aid and American Rescue Plan funds.

I thank my colleagues who served on the committee for their efforts and support of the work that we accomplished this year, and I thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the Committee's operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley B. Mayer".

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Senator Shelley B. Mayer, Chairperson

Committee Members

Sen. Joseph P. Addabbo	Sen. James Tedisco Ranking Member
Sen. John E. Brooks	Sen. Joseph Griffo
Sen. Samra Brouk	Sen. Peter Oberacker
Sen. Robert Jackson	Sen. Daniel G. Stec
Sen. John C. Liu	Sen. Alexis Weik
Sen. John Mannion	
Sen. Elijah Reichlin-Melnick	
Sen. Sean Ryan	
Sen. Toby Ann Stavisky	

Committee Staff

Georgia Ascianto, Committee Director
Andrew Buder Esq., Committee Clerk

Counsel Staff

Lonnie Threatte, Assistant Deputy Director
Amanda Godkin Esq., Senior Counsel

Finance Staff

Michael Swanson, Director of Education
Monica Saladi, Senior Budget Analyst

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Education has legislative oversight and responsibilities for primary and secondary school requirements including Pre-K to twelfth grade, as well as budget oversight for public libraries and services to adults with special needs. Issues before the committee range from teacher qualifications, curriculum requirements, school district operations, and school and library budget votes and elections. The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Education has a diverse range of topics within its jurisdiction.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, three hundred fifty-three bills were referred to the committee for its review. Of these bills, fifty-one were reported from the Committee, forty-one were passed by the Senate, and twenty were approved by both houses. These education bills were approved by the committee during seven meetings held throughout the legislative session. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

In addition to its regular meetings, the committee held three hearings including one focused on the proposed Executive Education Budget and two hearings on the planning requirements and implementation of Foundation Aid increases and American Rescue Plan funding.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The education committee approved twenty bills that passed both houses of the Legislature including measures to address the health and safety of students, operational needs of school districts and local education initiatives. These highlights are:

- S.531B Kaplan – Directs the Urban Development Corporation to conduct a study regarding assistance needed to encourage women and minorities to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- S.1239 Mayer – Permits prescribed nasal spray glucagon or epinephrine to be administered by trained unlicensed school personnel during an emergency.
- S.1925 Jackson – Adds factors to be considered when determining hazardous conditions to transport schoolchildren under certain conditions.
- S.5151A May – Prohibits schools or districts from filing a lawsuit against a student's parent or guardian for unpaid school meal fees.
- S.5576C Mayer – Relates to the granting of tenure for teachers and principals and annual performance review requirements during the 2020-21 school year.
- S.5743A Skoufis – Provides children of military families to register in school districts within a reasonable time of relocation due to military orders.
- S.1761C Cooney – Authorizes an additional phase of reconstruction and modernization of school buildings in the Rochester City School District.
- S.5603A May – Authorizes an additional phase of reconstruction and modernization of school buildings in the Syracuse City School District.
- S.6052B Reichlin-Melnick – Expands the powers and duties of the monitors in the East Ramapo Central School District.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2021, twenty of the three hundred fifty-one bills referred to the Standing Committee on Education passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed ten and vetoed eight.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S396	Oberacker	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms a transportation contract of the Oneonta city school district for the 2019-2020 school year.	Vetoed. Memo 41
S531B	Kaplan	Directs the urban development corporation to conduct a study regarding the assistance needed to encourage women and minorities to pursue technology careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).	Action Pending
S1239	Mayer	Relates to allowing the administration of prescribed glucagon or epinephrine auto injectors in emergency situations by trained unlicensed school personnel.	Signed. Chapter 339
S1761C	Cooney	Amends the city of Rochester and the board of education of the city school district of the city of Rochester school facilities modernization program act by granting further authority to the RJSCB to modernize educational facilities in the city of Rochester.	Signed Chapter 614
S1798	Borrello	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms the actions of the Panama central school district regardless of the failure of such district to timely file final building cost reports	Vetoed Memo 42
S1925	Jackson	Adds additional factors to be considered when determining if a child safety zone should be considered hazardous.	Signed Chapter 623
S4963A	Reichlin-Melnick	Validates certain acts by the Pearl River union free school district in connection with final building cost reports required to be filed with the state education department.	Vetoed Memo 44
S5151A	May	Prohibits schools or school districts from filing a lawsuit against a student's parent or guardian for unpaid meal fees.	Signed Chapter 315

S5545	Mayer	Relates to absentee ballots for school district elections during a declared disaster emergency; a voter can apply for an absentee ballot when they are unable to appear personally at the polling place of the school district in which they are a qualified voter because there is a risk of contracting or spreading a disease that may cause illness to the voter or to other members of the public.	Signed Chapter 60
S5562A	Kaminsky	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms transportation contracts for the West Hempstead Union Free school district.	Vetoed Memo 40
S5563B	Kaminsky	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms transportation contracts for the Baldwin Union Free school district.	Vetoed Memo 39
S5576C	Mayer	Relates to the granting of tenure to probationary classroom teachers or building principals; provides that no school district shall complete an annual professional performance review for the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one school year.	Signed Chapter 112, Approval Memo 8
S5603A	May	Relates to building projects of the third phase of the Syracuse cooperative school reconstruction act; requires a report on the fiscal and pedagogical results of the projects undertaken to the city of Syracuse, the city school district, the governor, and other government officials; provides for the computation of building aid for the reconstruction or modernizing of certain schools for the third phase of the city of Syracuse cooperative school reconstruction act; makes related provisions.	Signed Chapter 617
S5627	Martucci	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms the actions of the Monticello central school district regardless of the failure of such district to timely file final building cost reports.	Vetoed Memo 38
S5743A	Skoufis	Provides that a student whose parent or guardian is being relocated to the state under military orders and is transferred or is pending transfer to a military installation within the state shall be deemed to be a	Signed Chapter 605

		resident pupil of a school district for the purposes of enrollment; makes related provisions.	
S5943	Reichlin-Melnick	Permits the Suffern central school district to move the date of their annual meeting and election for the 2021 year so that it does not conflict with religious observances; provides for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.	Signed Chapter 100
S6052B	Reichlin-Melnick	Relates to the powers and duties of monitors in the East Ramapo central school district.	Signed Chapter 173
S6188A	Boyle	Relates to legalizing, validating, ratifying and confirming a certain contract of the West Islip union free school district.	Vetoed Memo 45
S6671	O'Mara	Relates to legalizing, validating, ratifying and confirming certain transportation contracts of the Corning city school district in the 2017-2018 school year.	Vetoed Memo 37
S7101	Brisport	Relates to the issuance of diplomas to youth who are placed, committed, supervised, detained or confined in certain facilities; provides that persons under twenty-one years of age who are placed with, committed to, under the supervision of, detained or otherwise confined in certain facilities, who participate in an educational program provided by such facilities, shall be issued a high school diploma upon completion of the minimum New York state diploma requirements. State Education Department	Action Pending

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S392	Kaminsky	Requires nonpublic and private elementary and secondary schools to require their prospective employees to submit fingerprints through the commissioner of education for the purpose of criminal background checks; authorizes conditional appointment of employees by such schools pending determination of the criminal background check.	REPORTED AND COMMITTED TO FINANCE
S396A	Oberacker	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms a transportation contract of the Oneonta city school district for the 2019-2020 school year.	VETOED MEMO.41
S400	Biaggi	Requires courses of study in private schools in the prevention of child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse for pupils in grades K-8.	COMMITTED TO RULES
S531B	Kaplan	Directs the urban development corporation to conduct a study regarding the assistance needed to encourage women and minorities to pursue technology careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).	Passed Both Houses
S546	Mayer	Relates to student governments in secondary schools.	Passed Senate
S572A	Mayer	Relates to special act school districts and special education; authorizes boards of education of special act school districts to establish fiscal stabilization reserve funds.	Passed Senate
S912	Mayer	Establishes a school voter registration access program to promote student voter registration and pre-registration.	Passed Senate
S964	Gaughran	Relates to legalizing, validating, ratifying and confirming a transportation contract of the Cold Spring Harbor central school district.	Passed Senate
S1019A	Kaminsky	Relates to administering asthma rescue medications and authorizing schools to possess and administer asthma rescue medications in emergency situations to pupils	Passed Senate

		with a requirement that the parent or guardian of such pupils are notified in writing of such emergency situations.	
S1057	Mayer	Replaces certain instances of the words handicapping conditions with disabilities in relation to children with such disabilities.	Passed Senate
S1100	Liu	Develops grow your own initiatives at school districts, boards of cooperative educational services and higher education institutions to attract underrepresented candidates into the teaching profession.	Passed Senate
S1239	Mayer	Relates to allowing the administration of prescribed glucagon or epinephrine auto injectors in emergency situations by trained unlicensed school personnel.	Signed Chapter 339
S1709	Gallivan	Makes permanent the provisions of chapter 396 of the laws of 2012, amending the education law, relating to services to out-of-state school districts by boards of cooperative educational services.	Committed to Rules
S1761C	Cooney	Amends the city of Rochester and the board of education of the city school district of the city of Rochester school facilities modernization program act by granting further authority to the RJSCB to modernize educational facilities in the city of Rochester.	Signed Chapter 614
S1798	Borrello	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms the actions of the Panama central school district regardless of the failure of such district to timely file final building cost reports.	Vetoed Memo 42
S1848	Skoufis	Authorizes the boards of education in union free school districts and central school districts to establish wards for the purpose of school board elections in Orange County.	Passed Senate
S1925	Jackson	Adds additional factors to be considered when determining if a child safety zone should be considered hazardous.	Signed Chapter 623
S1984	Jackson	Relates to directing the commissioner to convene statewide and regional conventions to bring together underrepresented educators annually to discuss experiences, best practices, and afford for networking,	Passed Senate

		mentorship opportunities, and support.	
S2053A	Reichlin-Melnick	Establishes school election wards in Rockland county union free and central school districts.	Passed Senate
S2114	Bailey	Authorizes and directs the commissioner of education to conduct a study on the number of children who are caregivers and how being a caregiver impacts their education.	Passed Senate
S2555	Brisport	Establishes a task force on educator diversity in New York state to study the presence of educator diversity.	Passed Senate
S2687	Brooks	Authorizes school districts to enter into a lease outside of such school district when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the commissioner of education that extenuating circumstances exist which necessitate a lease outside of the school district.	Passed Senate
S3184	Mayer	Enacts the "E-Let's Expand Access to Remote Now (E-LEARN) Act" to ensure all children have access to the delivery of technology through high-quality broadband internet connectivity in support of the constitutional education obligations of the state; imposes assessments on telecommunications providers; creates a state fund to accomplish objectives.	REPORTED AND COMMITTED TO FINANCE
S3345	Felder	Requires that academic credit toward a high school diploma be given for practical experience gained outside of school during high school.	Passed Senate
S3682	Felder	Directs the commissioner of education to study and report on the provision of services to public school students in grades 8 through 12 by guidance counselors	Passed Senate
S4243A	Gaughran	Relates to conducting a study on the access of state public libraries and library systems to capital funding; the department of education, in consultation with the dormitory authority, the office of the state comptroller, and the public library systems of the state, shall assess and report on the capital needs of such public library systems, including public libraries and association libraries.	Passed Senate

S4315	Hinchey	Permits a school food authority to attribute moneys spent on purchases of food products from New York state farmers, growers, producers or processors made for its school breakfast program to the thirty percent of costs for school lunch service programs.	REPORTED AND COMMITTED TO FINANCE
S4561	Hinchey	Relates to reimbursement for certain lunch meals served during the declared COVID-19 state of emergency.	REPORTED AND COMMITTED TO FINANCE
S4650	Mannion	Allows for unlicensed personnel to administer certain seizure rescue medication in schools, on school grounds and at school events; provides that such medicine may be left with a school health official to be used as needed.	Passed Senate
S4963A	Reichlin-Melnick	Validates certain acts by the Pearl River union free school district in connection with final building cost reports required to be filed with the state education department.	Vetoed Memo 44
S5151A	May	Prohibits schools or school districts from filing a lawsuit against a student's parent or guardian for unpaid meal fees.	Signed Chapter 315
S5268	Kennedy	Allows for the reimbursement of certain costs of school districts for the purchase or lease of electric school buses.	REPORTED AND COMMITTED TO FINANCE
S5545	Mayer	Relates to absentee ballots for school district elections during a declared disaster emergency; a voter can apply for an absentee ballot when they are unable to appear personally at the polling place of the school district in which they are a qualified voter because there is a risk of contracting or spreading a disease that may cause illness to the voter or to other members of the public.	Signed Chapter 60
S5562A	Kaminsky	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms transportation contracts for the West Hempstead Union Free school district.	Vetoed Memo 40
S5563B	Kaminsky	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms transportation contracts for the Baldwin Union Free school district.	Vetoed Memo 39
S5576C	Mayer	Relates to the granting of tenure to probationary classroom teachers or building principals; provides that no school district	Signed Chapter 112

		shall complete an annual professional performance review for the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one school year.	
S5603A	May	Relates to building projects of the third phase of the Syracuse cooperative school reconstruction act; requires a report on the fiscal and pedagogical results of the projects undertaken to the city of Syracuse, the city school district, the governor, and other government officials; provides for the computation of building aid for the reconstruction or modernizing of certain schools for the third phase of the city of Syracuse cooperative school reconstruction act; makes related provisions.	Signed Chapter 617
S5627	Martucci	Legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms the actions of the Monticello central school district regardless of the failure of such district to timely file final building cost reports.	Vetoed Memo
S5743A	Skoufis	Provides that a student whose parent or guardian is being relocated to the state under military orders and is transferred or is pending transfer to a military installation within the state shall be deemed to be a resident pupil of a school district for the purposes of enrollment; makes related provisions.	Signed Chapter 605
S5943	Reichlin-Melnick	Permits the Suffern central school district to move the date of their annual meeting and election for the 2021 year so that it does not conflict with religious observances; provides for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.	Signed Chapter 100
S6052B	Reichlin-Melnick	Relates to the powers and duties of monitors in the East Ramapo central school district.	Signed Chapter 173
S6188A	Boyle	Relates to legalizing, validating, ratifying and confirming a certain contract of the West Islip union free school district.	Vetoed Memo 43
S6289A	Gaughran	Requires all contracts with private food service management companies to disclose ingredient lists and nutritional information for all the meals they provide school districts; requires such school districts to publish such ingredient lists and nutritional information on their district's website.	Passed Senate

S6307	Harcham	Extends the time period from eighteen years to twenty-five years that a school shall be guaranteed recovery of energy performance contract costs from energy savings incurred by school districts over that time period.	Passed Senate
S6671	O'Mara	Relates to legalizing, validating, ratifying and confirming certain transportation contracts of the Corning city school district in the 2017-2018 school year.	Passed Senate
S6686	Brouk	Extends the effectiveness of certain provisions relating to authorizing contracts for the provision of special education and related services for certain patients hospitalized in hospitals operated by the office of mental health.	Passed Senate
S6744	Salazar	Removes the term incorrigible from certain sections of the education law.	Passed Senate
S6795	Mayer	Authorizes industrial development agencies to finance certain facilities for the small city school districts; permits the financing, re-financing or reimbursement of the costs of the acquisition, design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of, or otherwise providing for such facilities.	Discharged to Rules
S6825	Mayer	Relates to continuing the New York State Smart Scholars Early College High School Program and the New York State Pathways in Technology Early College High School Program.	Passed Senate
S6876A	Jordan	Directs the commissioner of education, in consultation with the superintendent of financial services and the office of the state comptroller, to study and prepare a report concerning school insurance reserve funds; provides for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.	Discharged to Rules
S7101	Brisport	Relates to the issuance of diplomas to youth who are placed, committed, supervised, detained or confined in certain facilities; provides that persons under twenty-one years of age who are placed with, committed to, under the supervision of, detained or otherwise confined in certain facilities, who	Passed Both Houses

		participate in an educational program provided by such facilities, shall be issued a high school diploma upon completion of the minimum New York state diploma requirements. State Education Department	
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